

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, *ex rel.*

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

v.

CASE NO. URS-2024-00221

SOUTHERN TRUST HOME SERVICES, INC.,  
Defendant

ORDER OF SETTLEMENT

Pursuant to § 56-265.30 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") is charged with enforcing the provisions of the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act, Code § 56-265.14 *et seq.* The Commission's Division of Utility and Railroad Safety ("Division"), after having conducted an investigation of this matter, alleges the following concerning Southern Trust Home Services, Inc. ("Company"):

(1) On or about September 11, 2023, the Company damaged a one-half-inch plastic gas service line operated by Roanoke Gas Company, located at or near 5734 Salisbury Drive Southwest, Roanoke, Virginia, while excavating.

(2) On the occasion set out in paragraph (1) above, the Company failed to exercise due care at all times to protect the underground utility line when exposing these lines by hand digging, in violation of Code § 56-265.24 A.

As evidenced in the attached Admission and Consent document, the Company neither admits nor denies these allegations but admits to the Commission's jurisdiction and authority to enter this Order.

As a proposal to settle all matters before the Commission arising from the Division's allegations herein, the Company represents and undertakes that it will pay a civil penalty to the

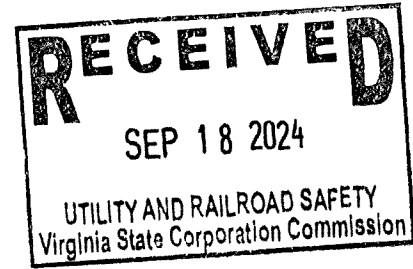
Commonwealth of Virginia in the amount of \$600 to be paid contemporaneously with the entry of this Order.

NOW THE COMMISSION, being advised by the Division and finding sufficient basis herein for the entry of this Order, accepts this settlement.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) The captioned case is docketed and assigned Case No. URS-2024-00221.
- (2) Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission by Code § 12.1-15, the offer of settlement made by the Company is accepted.
- (3) The sum of Six Hundred Dollars (\$600) tendered contemporaneously with the entry of this Order is accepted.
- (4) This case is dismissed.

A COPY hereof shall be sent electronically by the Clerk of the Commission to: Thaddeus Puzio, President, Southern Trust Home Services, Inc., 1035 North Ridge Road, Hardy, Virginia 24101, [john.vaughn@southernstateservice.com](mailto:john.vaughn@southernstateservice.com); and a copy shall be delivered to the Commission's Office of General Counsel and Division of Utility and Railroad Safety.



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ADMISSION AND CONSENT

The Company, Southern Trust Home Services, Inc., admits the jurisdiction of the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") as to the party and subject matter hereof and, without admitting or denying the allegations made herein by the Division of Utility and Railroad Safety, hereby consents to the form, substance, and entry of the foregoing Order of Settlement. The Company acknowledges that the Order of Settlement entered herein is a public record and is subject to review by the public.

The Company further states that no offer, tender, threat, or promise of any kind has been made by the Commission or by any member, officer, agent, or representative thereof in consideration of this Admission and Consent.

Southern Trust Home Services, Inc.

Company Representative: John Vaughn

Printed Name: John Vaughn

Email: John.Vaughn@southernstateservice.com

Date: 9/13/24